

Left His
Body to
Science.Parsee
Fire-
Worshipper.The Real
Original
Gaiety Girl.To Mark
Washington's
Birthplace.Diving
Bell That
Collapsed.Missing
Cap of
the Sphinx.The Man
Who Heard
Washington.Bequeath Brains
to Science.Servants of Paris Pledge Their
Bodies to the Cause of
Knowledge.

THE MUTUAL AUTOPSY SOCIETY.

There is in Paris a large, carefully organized society of scientists—with several women members—which has a ghastly and horrible purpose. Each member has solemnly pledged himself that when he dies his body, instead of having a ceremonious burial, shall be delivered to the surviving associates, who shall dissect it, and that his brain likewise shall be studied and probed for its secrets, and finally immersed in alcohol. It shall be raised in a glass beside the skull which held it along with other brains and skulls of those that have gone before.

The name of this strange organization is the Mutual Autopsy Society (La Société d'Autopsie Mutuelle). It is composed of about one hundred living members, and the dead, whose skulls and brains are neatly catalogued in a glass case at one end of the meeting room, number fourteen. Within a few days the fifteenth ghastly relic will have its place there.

This fifteenth was in life the property of M. Abel Hovelacque, director of the Anthropological Society, who died a short time ago. It now rests, immersed in alcohol, on the table of the dissecting room, where soon will be gathered the male and female comrades to weigh and cut and probe and discuss it, and try to pierce the mystery which it holds.

The Mutual Autopsy Society was organized in 1876, when several professors and savants of the Anthropological Society decided to offer themselves as examples in making a sacrifice to science. "Why," they asked one another, "should we render immediately to earth the deserted mortal tenement, the study of which offers so vast and interesting possibilities for the advancement of science?"

Another doctrine of the society is that it would be infinitely better for families, when an adult member died, if he should be made the subject of careful scientific study. In this way the children or relatives of the deceased might be warned of and taught how to guard against hereditary maladies which might menace them.

It was this double point of view—scientific and humanitarian—that brought about the organization of the Mutual Autopsy Society. The constitution of the society is carefully drawn, and each member is obliged to sign the following pledge:

"I, the undersigned, desire and wish that after my death an autopsy of my body be held under the auspices of the Société d'Autopsie, duly authorized, and also under those as well of the Society for the Advancement of Anthropological Science, both legally recognized to be of public utility."

"Therefore, for the purpose of being useful to science, I bequeath to the laboratory of the aforesaid association my brain and any other part of my body, or my entire body, if that be judged useful in the course of the autopsy."

"Should, however, contrary to my intent and wish, my desire in these presents expressed, be contested by my heirs, I bequeath, free of all inebriation, the sum of (for example, to the poor of the Commune of or to such and such an association.)"

M. Hovelacque's heirs offered no objection to the carrying out of his will, and it is anticipated that some unusually interesting discoveries will be made when the autopsy takes place, for the dead man was one of the most prominent members of the society.

M. Hovelacque was fifty-three years old at his death, a leading French savant, and famous linguist, particularly in Oriental tongues. Though Professor of Linguistic Ethnography in the School of Anthropology, he took an active interest in the work of the society. At the time of his death he was a member of the Chamber of Deputies. In religion he was a naturalist. The president of the society is the celebrated Dr. Laborde, professor of the School of Anthropology and chief of the physiologic work of the Faculty of Paris.

The fourteen brains which are now in the collection of the society belong to the following people: Asseline, Asseline, Broca, Dr. Bérillon, Condouat, Favre, Gambetta, the great French statesman, Gillet, Vidal, Lavoisier, M. Lelais, Mondrier, Sauzet and Eugene Veron. Other illustrious names should also figure in this list, among them those of General Faidherbe and of Viollet le Duc. These celebrated Frenchmen were members of the society, but exceptional circumstances prevented an autopsy being held upon their remains. General Faidherbe died in 1889, and his body was buried in the city of Paris. Viollet le Duc met with an accidental death in a foreign country. The latter, it will be remembered, was a celebrated French architect, archaeologist and writer on art.

Not long ago one of the societies resolved to commit suicide, and wrote to the president of the association to that effect. But at the last moment a terrible doubt passed through his mind as he asked himself if his wife would be likely, after all, to consent to his autopsy.

He therefore drew up his last will and testament, which stipulated that his wife should go to the city of Paris in case his wife should strive to prevent the disposition of his body that he wished. Then he killed himself. After his death the Mutual Autopsy Society claimed his remains and had possession of them for a short time. Then the wife, by legal proceedings, secured possession of what was left of her husband's body and had it decently interred in the provinces. The city of Paris thereupon laid claim to the estate, and the Société d'Autopsie sued for the recovery of the suicide's brain. Both cases are still in the Paris courts.

One member of the society is quoted as saying that the thought that his would be taken out of its box by eminent scientists as an end result of a robbed death of its bitterness, now regarded his ultimate end of melancholy pleasure.

He Prays
to the Sun.A Real Asiatic Fire Worshipper
Now in New
York.

SCOFFS AT THE X RAY WONDERS.

There is a genuine Asiatic fire worshipper in New York. He is a Parsee, one of the highest types of the residents of India. At home his name is Sahib Dinshah Postoujee Framjee Ghadiale. In this country he is known as Mr. Dinshah. He was until recently electrician to His Highness the Maharajah of Dholapore, India, and is a member of a dozen or more literary and scientific societies.

Mr. Dinshah visits this country in the interests of science. He claims that the relative character of solids whereby they only seem to be impermeable, while in reality they offer no real obstacles to the penetration through them of such trifles as the X rays, is well known to the occultists and has been an open book to all Theosophists for years. The recently "discovered" fact that thought is material and can be photographed is an old story to him, as also to all other advanced students of the arcane philosophy. He is an enthusiastic Theosophist, although staunchly loyal to the worship of the sun and in his reverence for fire, which he considers to be the purest and most mystical of all the elements.

When asked how he managed to perform his religious ceremonies in this country, he said to a Journal reporter:

"I have no difficulty in my devotions here. It is not necessary to be in the presence of the sun. A Parsee can stand by a river any hour during daylight and say his prayers. After the sun is gone, however, it is useless to pray before a river, for then both air and water are alive with 'elementals,' or vicious egos, which defile their surroundings. We pray to the sun, or to any name, only as symbols. Fire is the purest of all the elements, the best representative of the various powers in nature, and we address it in our religious service, hoping thus to reach the Divine Consciousness."

"There is nothing material in Zoroastrianism. We have no idols, no images, no saints, no harps, no streets of gold, no walls of jasper or chalcidony. We adore the Supreme and reverence His most majestic symbol, which is light."

"Thus the oldest religion is the only purely spiritual and esoteric teaching. Its form of worship can be fully understood only by the highest and clearest conception of metaphysics and natural philosophy of the present age."

The Parsees are a most interesting race. There are only about 80,000 of them, of whom 60,000 live in Bombay, the remaining 20,000 being scattered throughout India, except a very few in Europe, and but three in this country.

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The Original
"Gaiety Girl."Kate Vaughan, the Pioneer Skirt
Dancer, Dying in London
of Consumption.

HER ARISTOCRATIC MARRIAGE.

Kate Vaughan, the original "Gaiety Girl," and creator of skirt dancing, is dying of consumption in England. Although her present name is the Honorable Mrs. Frederick Wellesley and she is a member of the illustrious family of which the Duke of Wellington is the chief, she is still dear to the hearts of the chappies and will ever be fondly remembered as the originator of what has since become a popular society craze. In London, benefits in her behalf have been given in many of the theatres, and the sum of \$10,000 has been realized, which she will need to pay her debts and those contracted by her spendthrift husband.

Kate Vaughan, although exalted in recent years when age and bad health had impaired her elasticity though not her grace, by more youthful stunts such as, for instance, Letty Lind, fifteen or twenty years ago, was without a rival. She might have retired from the stage long ago, in affluence. Instead of now in relative penury, had it not been for her worthless but aristocratic husband, to keep whom from starving she has literally danced herself into the grave. Ever since his dismissal from the army, from the Queen's household, and from the diplomatic service on her account, he has been practically living upon her earnings as a dancer. She has frequently pawned her jewelry and plate and has mortgaged her furniture in order to save him from bankruptcy. James Wellesley, the third son of Lord Cowley, for years British ambassador to Paris, was successful page of honor to the Queen, lieutenant of the Coldstream Guards, aide-de-camp to the Viceroy of Ireland, military attaché of the British Embassy at St. Petersburg. In 1876 he married Miss Susan Loftus, daughter of Lord Augustus Loftus, and as a wedding gift the Queen made him a Lieutenant-Colonel. He was for a long time an intimate friend and companion of the Prince of Wales.

In 1879 Colonel Wellesley was appointed to act as Charge d'Affaires of Great Britain at Vienna. Just about that time Kate Vaughan visited Vienna with Captain John Belmont, of the Royal Horse Guards, with whom she was living at the time. Kate was beautiful and sprightly Kate became a prominent figure among the Viennese monde qui danse, and was a conspicuous feature of the supper of the Austrian jeunesse dorée at Sacher's. Colonel Wellesley was a man of great charm and was a successful actor, and rode and drove with her under the very nose of the court.

One night at the opera, when the Emperor and the Empress were present, the door of the British Embassy was opened, and the British Charge d'Affaires, in a quarter of a second, a woman, dressed in a black and white costume, appeared. The Emperor immediately arose and left the opera, while the indignant and angry guests of the Embassy, who were in the faces of the Chamberlains and Court functionaries can be better imagined than described.

The next day Colonel Wellesley was publicly sacked in the face by John Belmont. The Colonel, however, refused to retaliate, and the next day, on the ground that one of the Articles of War strictly forbade duelling among officers, he retired to London, and on the wall of the Guards' barracks, at Horse Guards, he was posted as a coward. The Duke of Cambridge, riding by, asked what it meant. He said to Colonel Wellesley and asked him if it was true that he had taken shelter behind the regulations in a quarrel about a woman. Wellesley was forced to acknowledge that he had.

"Then," said the Duke, "you had better leave the army," he exclaimed the Colonel; "but what am I to do if I leave the army?"

"Turn dancing master, and be damned to you!" replied the commander-in-chief. Colonel Wellesley's enforced retirement from the army followed. He now owned a small house in the Strand, and he and his wife and took up his residence with Kate Vaughan, on whom he spent both Mrs. Wellesley's and his own fortune. His presents to the actress included a magnificent toilet service, including basin, jug and bath of solid silver, exquisitely worked and engraved with her monogram. This was exhibited in the store of one of the fashionable silversmiths in London as having been ordered by Colonel Fred Wellesley. In 1882 Mrs. Wellesley got a divorce, and the Colonel lost no time in marrying the actress, by whom he had at the time two children. Being completely ruined, he has since then been absolutely dependent on Kate Vaughan's earnings as a bonnie actress and danseuse.

The first successful movement toward erecting a monument to mark Washington's birthplace was made in 1884. An appropriation of \$11,000 was voted by Congress for the monument, and \$30,000 for the site and other improvements about the birthplace. Designs were submitted by monument architects from almost every State in the Union.

To the late Secretary of State, W. Q. Gresham, fell the task of selecting the one of all others that should be most artistic and appropriate. Secretary Gresham believed in simplicity, and he, therefore, decided in favor of the design submitted by John Crawford & Son, of Buffalo.

New Sporting Hosiery.

On the lowest foundation stone will be the following: Erected by the United States, A. D. 1800.

The shaft will be visible from passing steamers, and will divide with Mount Vernon the interest of the Potomac.

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Monument to
Washington.To Mark His Birthplace in an
Out of the Way Town
in Virginia.

RUINS AT THE SPOT NOW.

The birthplace of George Washington, which has been overlooked by all the patriotic societies of the country which have placed monuments or memorials of some sort on almost every spot that is prominently connected with the immortal George, will soon be marked by a granite shaft, which will tower over the lonely spot of the birthplace of the Father of His Country, at Wakefield, Westmoreland County, Va.

No one who has not visited the birthplace can imagine the dreary isolation. It is very difficult to reach, either by land or water. It is forty-two miles from Fredericksburg, Va., the nearest railroad station, and to reach it one must drive overland.

The site of the house in which Washington was born, which is determined now only by a scattering pile of broken bricks and mortar from the chimney, is about one mile and a half from the Potomac, at a point where that river is about seven miles wide and about six or seven hundred feet from Pope's Creek, formerly Bridge's Creek.

The Government has built a wharf 1,080 feet long, 24 feet wide, and when the water is low, the wharf is about one mile and a half from the Potomac, at a point where that river is about seven miles wide and about six or seven hundred feet from Pope's Creek, formerly Bridge's Creek.

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Smashed a
Diving Bell.Tremendous Pressure of Water
at a Depth of About 200
Feet.

END OF A VERY NOVEL EXPERIMENT.

Crushed out of shape, as if by some giant power, there lies in a junkyard at Pittsburgh what remains of the most ambitious attempt ever made to construct a diving bell, which would defy the pressure of water at great depths. This was the invention of Hubert Schon, a brass moulder, of Pittsburgh, who had given long study to the power and resistance of metals.

He knew that no diver had ever descended and worked successfully at a greater depth than about 100 feet. He had heard of the diver who went down to work upon the wreck of the Elbe in the English Channel, and who was hurriedly lifted unconscious to the surface from a depth of 170 feet.

Mr. Schon knew about the old diving bells, and he thought that one made according to up-to-date scientific principles would startle the world by its achievements. He therefore constructed a diving bell made of phosphor-bronze, eight-eighths of an inch thick.

Each plate was cast with a flange, and the plates were bolted together, the bolts being placed as closely together as was consistent with strength. The sides were further strengthened by ribs, an inch thick and two inches wide.

There was an opening for a lookout on either side of this box, and the heavy glass plates were one inch in thickness. This diving bell was a cube, six feet high.

When the diving bell was completed, it weighed 25,000 pounds. Its inventor expected that it would easily resist the pressure at a depth of 250 feet.

He had not the slightest hesitation in going down in it the first time it was lowered into the water. This was in Lake Michigan, opposite Milwaukee, but close to the shore.

The depth was about seventy feet. Schon staid down on the bottom in this bell for about three hours, and there he saw, burned matches, watched the sewage of the city float past him and conversed with the friends above him by means of a telephone.

The inventor was so delighted with the result that he wanted to go down in his diving bell when it was lowered to a depth of 200 feet twelve miles from the land. Only the urgent persuasion of his friends dissuaded him from this foolhardy attempt, which would undoubtedly have cost him his life.

The diving bell had been taken out to that part of Lake Michigan on a big float, and there was a party of scientists present to watch the progress of the experiment. Before it was lowered into the water, the enough ballast had been attached to the bell to make the whole apparatus weigh 30,000 pounds. But after it had been lowered into the water a short distance it was weighed and was found to weigh only 500 pounds. This might have shown what the pressure of the water would be at a greater depth.

The line had been marked at intervals of twenty-five feet, and it was steadily raised out as the huge bell sank to the bottom. Here it reached the bottom, lay over on its side, and the whole thing was crushed by the mighty pressure of the water.

One of the heavy oak timbers was driven into itself and splintered to match wood. The inch-thick plate glass was almost pulverized.

According to the ropes, the machine was down 200 feet, but the gauge showed a pressure of 100 feet. The gauge, if registered correctly, indicated a depth of 228 feet. But on a basis of 200 feet, the pressure that crushed this splendidly invulnerable phosphor-bronze structure was 80 pounds per square inch, or 353,924 pounds to each side of six feet square. The total pressure, therefore, was 2,723,548 pounds, or 1,361.7 tons.

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The Cap of
The Sphinx.Lost for Centuries, an American
Has Now Found This
Stone.

BURIED UNDER EGYPT'S SANDS.

It has remained for an American to solve, at least in part, the mystery of the Sphinx of Egypt. This American is Colonel G. E. Raun, of California.

He has been for some time conducting investigations in the East, and he has long taken a deep interest in the pyramids, the Sphinx and other wonders of the land of the Pharaohs. The whole story of these huge evidences of the activity of generations long since passed away, had never, he felt, been told, and a rich field yet remained for the explorer and the antiquarian in digging, measuring and investigating about their foundations.

After a careful investigation of the great Sphinx, which stares out upon the desert waste of Gizeh, Colonel Raun came to the conclusion that there were parts of it yet unaccounted for. He found in the head of the Sphinx a deep hole that had no apparent connection with the design of the head, and was obviously meant to support some form of crown or head dress.

This hole had been filled up with the sand of the desert and had been overlooked for centuries. The Sphinx is so old that there are no authentic traditions regarding it in its complete state, and nobody knows an American has now unearthed it, that there is a connection with the design of the head, and was obviously meant to support some form of crown or head dress.

Colonel Raun came to the conclusion that the hole in the head of the Sphinx had been meant to support a cap, which was evidently part of its symbolic design. He concluded that this cap was a large stone affair and that its weight had probably been so great that it could not have been carried very far away and was probably buried somewhere in the immediate vicinity of the Sphinx.

Colonel Raun started to dig for the cap at the foot of the Sphinx. In the course of this work he came upon a subterranean tunnel beneath the forepaw of this colossal monument to the glory of some past ruler of Egypt.

This small tunnel beneath the sands of the desert the long-missing cap of the Sphinx has been found. It exactly fits the hole in the head of the Sphinx. It was discovered at a distance of fifteen feet below the surface. The stone cap bears a carved design.

The design shows a lotus column with a snake beneath them, besides an ornamental carved border. The stone cap measures 4 feet 8 inches in width at the bottom. It is 2 feet 2 inches across the top.

All of the stone cap is painted red, the color still showing clearly after many centuries. So long has this cap been buried at this spot, from which the enterprise of the Sphinx has now been unearthed, that there is no record of its having been in its place on the head of the Sphinx from the time of its construction.

It was probably in this identical place at the time of Christ, having been no doubt taken down during some previous reign of the Pharaohs in Egypt. The cap will now undoubtedly be either restored to its proper place on the head of the Sphinx or placed in one of Egypt's fine public museums.